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RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0169  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0197  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0562  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 0109  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0360

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 001314

SIPDIS  
ISN/RA ARIEL STUKALIN AND IO/T HEATHER VON BEHREN

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TAGS: [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [AF](#)  
SUBJECT: GERMANY'S RESPONSE TO AFGHANISTAN'S IAEA BID

REF: A. STATE 87744  
[1](#)B. BERLIN 1156  
[1](#)C. STATE 99746

Classified By: Deputy Political Chief Stan Otto for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) PolOff delivered Ref A points to Hans Koeppel, desk officer in the MFA's Nuclear Arms Control (REF 240) Division on September 18. Koeppel, who was backstopping his colleague Martin Langer while Langer was on a trip to Washington with the German Political Director, Volker Stanzel, reiterated nearly word-for-word the point Langer made when discussing the issue in August: that "any other option would be an improvement over Syria or Iran as a member of the IAEA's Board of Governors -- including Afghanistan."

[1](#)2. (C) When questioned, Koeppel noted that Germany would most likely support the EU statements regarding Syrian and Iranian cooperation with the IAEA, rather than issuing its own National Statement. While not yet prepared to publicly support Afghanistan's candidacy in the hopes that another country comes forward, Koeppel indicated that Afghanistan -- while not yet ready for the responsibilities associated with being a BOG member -- would certainly be the preferred candidate to Syria or Iran, whom he labeled "unacceptable." Koeppel expressed hope that Kazakhstan would be able to join the MESA grouping and thus be eligible for nomination. He agreed that the credibility of the IAEA is at risk if Iran or Syria joined the BOG.  
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